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TUESDAY.....DECEMBER 29, 1896.

MCKINLEY'S CABINET GAME.
THIS PAPER RECEIVES THE COMBINED TELEGRAPHIC-NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE UNITED PRESS, THE WESTERN ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATED PRESS, AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

TARIFF HEARINGS.

The House Committee on Ways and Means yesterday began their "hearings" as to the proposed changes in the tariff.

This was the beginning. For months this sort of thing will be going on in the House committee. And when the Congress is called into extra session, after the inauguration of Mr. McKinley, there will be further "hearings" before the new committee. Then there will be a debate in the House, and the bill will be passed.

Then the bill will be communicated to the Senate. Then there will be more "hearings" before the Senate committee, and in the leisurely fashion customary with senators. We suppose the bill will then be reported with amendments. Then, after some delay, the Senate will proceed to discuss the bill; but, inasmuch as it has no rule enabling a majority to cut off debate, Heaven only knows how long it will take it to dispose of the bill. Nor, indeed, can anyone now say with certainty that such a bill as the Republicans of the House would favor could pass the Senate. At the present moment it would seem more than doubtful if the Republicans will have senators enough to pass their high-tariff, trust-protecting bill. But, should they pass it, they would pass it with amendments, and a committee of conference might be necessary to adjust the differences of the two houses. This would consume more time, and prolong the agitation into the late summer. Meanwhile, the country is asked to await "patiently" this tedious procedure. It will have to wait—there's no help for that—but it will not do so patiently.

This is by no means a cheering prospect; but no one can safely say that it is not what we must expect. Furthermore, while all of the manufacturers who wish import duties increased are to be heard before the House and Senate committees, we know of no organized effort by which the masses of the people—the consumers—are to be heard. Now and then a representative consumer may drop in and ask to speak in opposition to some proposed schedule, but the great body of the people will not be heard from at all. But it will be said, doubtless, that the consumers will be represented by their congressmen. This is a theory, not a condition. Certainly, so far as the House is concerned, the Republican members have been elected with the aid of money put into their hands by Hanna's agents. Most of this money came from protected manufacturers. The members in question knew this when they received "aid," and also knew what was expected of them; and the result will be that the majority will vote for whatever tariff Mr. Hanna approves.

Further, Mr. Hanna is now engaged in trying to capture new senators. He thus hopes to have both houses under his control. With the vast sum that he will have in hand for this purpose, and judging by the success that attended his use of money in the last campaign, he will probably be able to pass such a bill as he wishes to pass.

This may not be a very encouraging prospect for the country at large; but, if it is to be, the sooner the better. Bad as Hanna's schemes are, they can scarcely prove worse for the people than another protracted period of agitation and uncertainty.

But the odd thing about all this is that many low-tariff or free-trade men helped to put Hanna in the position where he now is, and where he is now able, or, at least, hopes to be able, to dictate the tariff policy of the country!

The inefficiency of the Pasteur treatment in the cases of some of the boys who were bitten by the mad-dog near Baltimore has disappointed many of the believers in that treatment. But worse still, there are some people who think that the disease, in some of the cases, did not come from the dog, but from the Pasteur Institute. We know of nothing to justify this intimation, and are sorry to see that it is made.

Hydrophobia, or rabies, has vastly increased in this country of late. Once it was a rare disease. So much so that Dr. Beale, who lived to be over eighty years of age, and the most of whose life was spent in Richmond, used

to say that he never saw a case in all of his practice, nor did he know of any other Richmond physician who had seen a case here.

The Baltimore boys were bitten by a St. Bernard dog. Three of them are dead, and the other five are still under treatment.

A TOWN ON A SPREE.

The Legislature of Connecticut is to be asked to step in and sober up the town of Manchester, in that State, the entire population of which, almost, is said to be on cocaine "lag." Some time ago an enterprising Manchester druggist commenced to put up an asthma snuff composed of cocaine and menthol. The preparation was not long in becoming both popular and seductive, and despite the efficacy of the snuff as a remedy for asthma, somehow or other, the disease seems to have spread with startling rapidity. The manufacture of the snuff also proved lucrative, and soon the other druggists of Manchester began to do it on the market. Now everybody in the town is snuffing the preparation. Persons can be seen "pinching" on the streets at night, at entertainments hosts and guests go off into quiet corners to enjoy a sniff, and the vice has even gone so far as to become a treating habit. Moreover, the remedy has returned to plague its inventor, and all others who were not content that he should enjoy a monopoly of its manufacture and sale. The Manchester druggists are wakened at all hours of the night by men and women and made to deal out the snuff under penalty of having their property wrecked if they refuse to do, and there is no peace for the knights of the mortar and the spatula. Some of the victims of the preparation consume 35 worth of it a week. Moral snuff has entirely failed to work reformation, and the sprees have assumed such proportions that it has been decided that the only way of pulling the town together is to have the Legislature pass a stringent law restricting the sale of cocaine. From the accounts the correspondents give of the ravages of the habit and the "goings on" of its victims, if the Legislature refuses to take the action referred to, the alternative will be to build a wall around Manchester and turn it into a lunatic asylum.

MCKINLEY'S CABINET GAME.

The Canton correspondent of the New York Herald throws new light upon the delay of McKinley in affording any satisfaction regarding the composition of his Cabinet, and explains how it is that so many statesmen have, after being, according to Madame Rumor, tendered portfolios, had the honor withdrawn from them. According to this correspondent, the second term bee has taken up its abode in the bosom of the Napoleon of Protection, and is keeping up a tremendous buzzing. To build for four years, says the Canton scribe, is hard enough; to lay the foundation for eight years is more difficult. McKinley's perplexity is to find men who will help to impress the policies of his administration upon the country continuously during his first term. In other words, he wants a Cabinet that will impress upon the country McKinleyism, with all that that implies.

How do the Democrats who voted for McKinley in the "late emergency" stomach this? How do they like being in the attitude of having helped to victory a man who, ere he has taken his seat in the presidential chair, is planning to subvert all other considerations to personal selfishness? How do they relish the idea of having none put on guard in the Cabinet whose highest recommendation is not that he is first, last, and always a McKinley henchman?

It is now authoritatively given out in Washington that there is not the slightest ground for the dispatch from Paris to the London Times stating that the great Powers of Europe had agreed to intervene and assist Spain in the event of trouble between Spain and the United States agent Cuba. Nor is that all. It is learned further from Washington that Secretary Olney has the assurance of each of the European governments that it would remain strictly neutral in case of such trouble. These several assurances were given some months ago, when Mr. Olney, apprehending possible hostilities with Spain, took occasion to inquire through our ministers and ambassadors in Europe touching the attitude of the Powers in respect of this matter.

One of the most discreditable acts since the election is the effort of the sensational Populists to use those western bank failures as arguments that the sound-money victory is tending to the collapse of the banking institutions of the country. The connection does not exist. The banks failed because of bad management, and not because of politics.—The Baltimore American.

"The sensational Populists" are doing exactly what the "sensational Republicans" would have done if Bryan been elected, and had his election been followed by these bank collapses. The propensity to say "I told you so," is as strongly developed in the Republican party as in any party that ever existed. It is, in fact, their stock in trade whenever they are out of office.

Weston, the veteran pedestrian, failed to perform the task he set himself of walking 112 miles in twenty-four hours, and so equaling the best performance of his manhood's prime; and he wept bitterly in consequence. He accomplished a little over 100 miles, however, and this is considered a remarkable feat for a man of his age—nearly 60.

The Atlanta Constitution says: "There's more genuine music in a little tin horn blown by a racy-cheeked boy than there is in a whole opera troupe. But you must look at it from a... sight point of view." Yes, and that point of view must be about seven miles from where the racy-cheeked boy is performing.

Ex-Queen Lill of the Hawaiian Islands, has been given a sleigh-ride in Boston, and by means of a glass-front in the sleigh and a foot-warmer, was prevented from freezing. She declares, however, that she cannot stand more than half an hour in midwinter weather.

My sixth is very small, He hardly seems a man at all; But, O, I could not bear to part With either Fifth or Sixth Sweetheart.

TEXANS CUT TO PIECES.

A Company in Cuban Army Fight Spanish for Hours.

KEY WEST, December 25.—A dispatch says that the Lone Star Company of the patriot army of West Cuba, consisting of fifteen Texas sharpshooters, perished to a man after heroically battling more than six hours against vastly superior Spanish forces in Pinar del Rio province, killing doubtless their own number, and wounding probably as many more.

Havana officials are jubilant, passengers arriving to-night say, over this victory.

General Meredith Read, ex-Minister to Greece, died in Paris on Sunday.

Major McKinley's friends are urging him to take a few weeks' rest in the South before the inauguration.

The Cuban band was observed near Pinar del Rio city Thursday morning,

CITY AFFAIRS.

The impression appears to be widespread here that the Mayor's forthcoming veto of the retrenchment and reform ordinances will put a quietus upon all movements of this description during the term of the present City Council.

We hope not. In the first place, who knows but that the Mayor suggests some better plan of procedure than that adopted by the City Council? And if this be not the case, who knows but that the ordinances in question may not be passed, the Mayor's objections to the contrary notwithstanding?

We trust that the Democratic members of the City Council will not permit this work of theirs to stop. As to plans of procedure, we are ill-prepared to give advice, but we think we voice the sentiment of every tax-payer here, great and small, when we say the demand of the hour is that the city shall live within its incomes and that it shall save the margin we have for issuing bonds to raise money for great public improvements.

It should be remembered that we have here in Richmond many thousands of property-holders. Many of our working-men own their own dwellings. It follows, therefore, that the number of interested persons who are watching the Council's proceedings is very large. Not a single tax-payer that we have heard of wishes to have city taxes increased; they all desire that expenses shall be reduced.

In our judgment retrenchment and reform can be better done by our party than by an opposition party. Yet if our party—our Mayor and our City Council—will not meet public expectations in this matter, we much fear that at the next municipal election we shall see a "Reform party" in the field.

Baltimore is in the grip of just such a party now, and mighty glad the people would be to get rid of it, but they cannot, at least not just now. Let us Richmond Democrats be wiser than they were, and give our tax-payers all the retrenchment and reform they need, so that they will not be tempted to call in political quack-quacks who are apt to kill as to cure.

The enemies of the Democratic party in Richmond could not be pleased better than to be witnesses of a failure of the present efforts of the City Council to bring Richmond's annual expenses within a sum which may be easily met out of our annual income. Surely we can arrange this. Surely we are not going to say to the people of this city that our party is unequal to the task. The fact is that we have already gone so far in this matter that we cannot retreat without disaster to ourselves as a party and as a community.

We, therefore, trust that the disagreement between Mayor Taylor and the City Council will not be found to be irreconcileable. "A dead heat" in the work of retrenchment and reform now would be very discouraging to the Democrats of Richmond. We cannot believe that such a calamity is impending. We have found that though in affairs of this kind our people talk and contend with one another a great deal, they usually arrive at a good understanding in the end.

It is said that Secretary Olney has called upon the Department of Justice for expert testimony in regard to the power of the President against the Cuban affair, and that this opinion, when obtained, will be incorporated in a special message to be sent to Congress by Mr. Cleveland. In the mean time, Senator Chandler of New Hampshire publishes a letter, in which he quotes the Constitution to support his statement that Mr. Olney's assumption of power for the Executive Committee of the Society of the Army and Navy of the Confederate States in the State of Maryland, which takes place on General Robert E. Lee's birthday, January 19th, at the Carrollton Hotel, expects to have Colonel John S. Mosby, the commanding general, of Fauquier county, Va., to address the society on the occasion. The address of Colonel Mosby, if he should come to Baltimore, will be delivered in one of the theatres or Music Hall, just before the banquet in the evening.

It is now urged by an official circular upon all division, brigade, and camp commanders to provide for a money collection by every Confederate camp on January 15th, the birthday of General Robert E. Lee, and every effort will be made to have the Lee anniversary, next month, celebrated by a successful start in securing the duplicate of the Roush fund.

MOSBY ON LEES BIRTHDAY.

The Famous Ranger Expected to Speak in Baltimore.

(Baltimore American.)

Captain James R. Wheeler, August St. Daniel, Daniel W. Thomas, Major W. S. Stewart Symington, Captain William H. Page, and E. J. Stinson, the committee appointed to arrange for the annual banquet of the Society of the Army and Navy of the Confederate States in the State of Maryland, which takes place on General Robert E. Lee's birthday, January 19th, at the Carrollton Hotel, expect to have Colonel John S. Mosby, the commanding general, of Fauquier county, Va., to address the society on the occasion.

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